



# The University of Georgia

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences  
*Department of Entomology*



Vol. 17 No. 2

June 2006

Editor: Jennifer Berry, Agricultural Research Coordinator

## Georgia Welcomes EAS

Finally, the 51<sup>st</sup> annual short course and conference of the Eastern Apicultural Society is just around the corner. For the first time in history, EAS will be meeting in our glorious state of Georgia, so you really don't want to miss this one. We have been working hard to make sure this will be a great meeting by inviting superb speakers, providing an excellent program, fixing great food, finding the best southern music, and brushing up on our southern hospitality. I promise you'll feel right at home. We not only want you to learn and experience something new, but have a good time while you're doing it. If you haven't made up your mind about coming to EAS, check out the website at [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org), then pack your bags, head to Young Harris College and get ready for a good time.

Now for those of you who have already decided to attend, let me give you a few specifics on how to locate the campus and the registration area. Young Harris is located in the beautiful Appalachian mountains of North Georgia. It is a small town and Young Harris College is a small college, therefore chances are good you won't get lost. The college is located right on Hwy 76. There are two main entrances into the college which are within a block of each other. If you look at the map, registration will be held in the Goolsby Center, which is listed as number 6. There is parking in front and back of the building which requires no specific fee or tag. There will be plenty of EAS signs to direct you to this building. Come in the front door and you will see the registration area. All short course lectures and inside workshops will be held in the Goolsby Center with outside workshops being held behind the Maxwell Center. The conference lectures, which begin Wednesday morning, will be held in the Clegg Fine Arts building, adjacent to the Goolsby Center. These buildings are a stone's throw from each other, so walking won't be a problem.

Registration for both short course and conference will begin on Sunday from 3 – 5 pm and Monday – Friday from 7:00 am – 5 pm. You will pick up your registration packet at the registration table. A program, meal tickets, directions and other helpful information will be inside your packet. Please check that your meal tickets, nametags, etc. are correct before leaving the registration area. If you are staying in a dorm, someone will be available to show you where they are located. On-line registration is available until July 15<sup>th</sup>. If you decide to come to the meeting after that date, bring the registration form with you. If you mail the form after the 15<sup>th</sup> we may not receive it in time and you will not be registered. If you don't register before July 15<sup>th</sup> you will not be able to stay in the dorms. The college has been supportive and is glad we are coming, but has been firm about the dates for the dorm. Walk-ins will be able to attend all lectures and workshops, but special events and meals may be sold out. It is a good idea to register before that date to ensure a place at the dinner table. Breakfast, lunch and dinner tickets for the cafeteria on campus are still available for purchase. If you purchase meal tickets, you will find them in your registration packet. You must have a meal ticket to enter the cafeteria. You will not be able to purchase a meal at the cafeteria, but may purchase them at the registration desk if there are any tickets left. However, meals for a particular day may be sold out. There are other meal options available in the area, but a car will be required and we are not handling those. Purchasing meal tickets for the cafeteria is the most convenient way to eat during the meeting.

You must register and pick up your dorm key at the registration desk before you can enter the residence halls. If you are staying on campus please try to arrive before 5 pm; otherwise you will have to call Susan Rogers to pick up your key. She works from 8 to 5 just like the rest of us, so if you arrive late you will be disturbing her personal time. She is on call for those unexpected emergencies, however she won't be pleased if you are waking her up in the middle of the night in order to get into the dorm. Her number is (704) 649-8624. Keep the map and her number handy so when you arrive you will be able to find your way around. At this time, all the dorm rooms with private baths are booked. However, there are still plenty of the suite-style rooms available. If you are not interested in staying at the dorms, there are plenty of hotels, B&Bs, and cabins available in the area. Go to the EAS website ([www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org)) for location and phone numbers. Also, do not lose your dorm key! If you do, we will have to charge you the \$75.00 fee the college will charge us.

Now a few more things about the meeting. Don't forget to bring your honey for the Annual Honey Show and Honey Exchange. If you are not familiar with the rules for the honey show, they are available on the EAS website. Even if you've never entered before, don't be shy, enter your honey. There will be two international judges there to take a look. This is a great way to learn what you are doing right or wrong, so bring some along. Also bring honey for the Honey Exchange. This is the fourth year for the Honey Exchange. If you never have been involved in a honey exchange, it is quite simple. Bring up to three one-pound jars of your honey (labeled with your name and type of honey) to the registration desk. They will give you a ticket for each jar you drop off. Then at the end of the week you will exchange your tickets for up to three different jars of honey. Location for the exchange will be announced, so no one will be left out. The jars will also be on display throughout the week so you can view them. There will be people from Maine to Florida, North Carolina to Ohio, so a whole variety of honey will be available for the exchange. It is a great way to sample different honey from around the country.

Another tradition of EAS is the Master Beekeeper Program. The certification process identifies people who have a detailed knowledge of honey bee biology, expertise in the proper practices of beekeeping, and can present this information to the beekeeping and non-beekeeping public in a detailed, accurate, and authoritative manner. The goal of this program is to verify that those who qualify are competent at a college level in the three areas in which they are tested. The program also establishes Master Beekeepers as an authority and educational resource in the community in which they live. It is a rigorous and challenging program which honors those when they complete the exam process.

One more thing I want to let you know about is the bee-lining workshop we are offering this year. A few people have asked me just what is bee-lining, so I figured I would let you in on the secret. Years ago, bee-lining was a method of finding “honey trees.” After the introduction of the Langstroth hive, bee-lining fell into obscurity. However, it has been slowly awakened in order to locate feral hives for hiving or eradication. Bee-lining is also an organized sport. If you are interested in experiencing this, Jim Fischer will be conducting a workshop on Wednesday afternoon.

Before I go, I really want to send my thanks out to some special people. For starters, there’s Cindy Bee who has been organizing all the volunteers. She has been a real blessing. Thank you Cindy! Without the help of volunteers, we would not be able to put on a meeting of this size, so I want to thank all of you who have signed up to volunteer. Other Georgia folks who have helped out tremendously are Detsy Bridges, Bill Owens, Evelyn Williams, Virginia Webb, Fred Rossman, Keith Fielder and Robert Brewer. Even folks outside of our fine state have been pitching in and helping out: Kathy Summers, last year’s president, Dawn Feagan, John Tulloch, Rich Hough, and Kim Flottum. Without their assistance I would have not known what to do. Thanks to you all. I know there are more people to thank, but I will leave that for the banquet.

I hope you are planning on heading south for some good ole, southern style fun. With the caliber of speakers, program and volunteers this year, I can’t imagine you not enjoying the whole week. If you have any questions, check out the website or give me a holler. I can’t wait to see ya’ll next month. Please pass this information along to other beekeepers in your association or state so they may take advantage of this grand event. It’s an experience you’ll really appreciate, and one you won’t find anywhere else. For more information on the entire program and events, please visit the EAS website, [www.easternapiculture.org](http://www.easternapiculture.org).

## 15th Young Harris Institute a Success

This year’s beekeeping institute was a huge success. Participation was up and the evaluations outstanding. Dr. David DeJong from the University of São Paulo, Brazil was one of our guest speakers. He concentrated his lectures on Africanized Honey Bees and how to properly work AHB colonies. Because of Dr. De Jong’s demonstrations and lectures, attendees walked away feeling better about the possible appearance of Africanized bees in the future. Our second guest lecturer was Dr. Bob Danka of the Baton Rouge USDA bee lab, home of the famous Russian bee. Dr. Danka spoke about topics spanning from bee breeding to pollination. Our third guest lecturer was Kim Flottum, editor of *Bee Culture* magazine and Chairman of EAS. If you are interested in attending the 2007 Young Harris Beekeeping Institute, we will begin to post information on our website early next year.

Along with lectures and workshops, we also had a honey show. Below are the winners for the 2006 Young Harris Beekeeping Institute Honey Show.

<b>Extracted Light</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place JM Sykes 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Jim Quick 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Don Ruth	<b>Extracted Amber</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place JM Sykes 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Jimmy Carmack	<b>Extracted Dark</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Jimmy Carmack 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Wil Montgomery 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jim Quick
<b>Extracted Black Jar</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Larry Sams 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Randy Tudor 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Jimmy Carmack	<b>Creamed Honey</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Randy Tudor	<b>Mead Sweet</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Keith Fielder 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Randy Tudor 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Larry Sams
<b>Beeswax Cake</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Keith Fielder 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Larry Sams	<b>Candle Ornamental</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Larry Sams	<b>Photography</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Trina Barron 2 <sup>nd</sup> place Don Ruth 3 <sup>rd</sup> place Keith Fielder
<b>Art</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> place Valerie Harris	<b>Best in Show</b> <b>Valerie Harris</b>	

Every year at the institute we have two certification programs starting on Thursday - the Welsh Certified Honey Judge Program and the Master Beekeeping Program. Details can be found on our website ([www.ent.uga.edu/bees](http://www.ent.uga.edu/bees)). Here are the newest certified Honey Judges, Journeyman, Master Beekeepers and Master Craftsman.

<b>Welsh Certified Honey Judges</b> Stacy Byrd Steve Genta Barbara Tate	<b>Journeyman</b> Nicholas Weaver
<b>Master Beekeepers</b> Cindy Bee Wil Montgomery	<b>Master Craftsman</b> Bill Owens

Since its inception in 2001, the Master Beekeepers program has graduated 21 Journeyman, 12 Masters and 1 Master Craftsman. This year, Bill Owens satisfied all requirements needed to become our first Master Craftsman, including a rigorous 2-hour oral exam. We are proud of Bill for accomplishing this task. He has not only been a great help here at the UGA bee lab, but an excellent promoter and educator for the beekeeping industry of Georgia. Bill also holds office as Vice President of EAS 06 and past president of the Eastern Piedmont Association and the Georgia Beekeepers Association. Good job Bill!



Georgia's 1<sup>st</sup> Master Craftsman, Bill Owens

## Jamie Ellis Accepts Apiculture Position at University of Florida

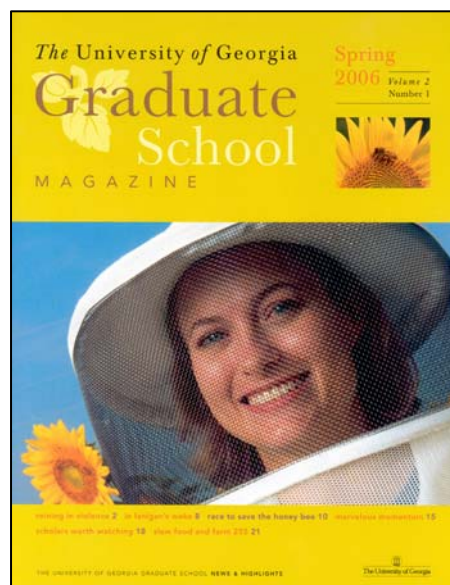


After 10 years of affiliation with the University of Georgia honey bee research program, Jamie Ellis will be leaving UGA in August to begin work at the University of Florida. Jamie was hired by the Entomology and Nematology Department at UFL to be their new Assistant Professor in apiculture. Jamie's new job responsibilities will combine research, extension, and instruction in apiculture and related subjects. He wishes to thank the Georgia beekeepers for their 10 years of support toward all his efforts at UGA. While Jamie was here at UGA, his work focused on thresholds and control methods for small hive beetles, along with Varroa IPM.

His new job begins August 7. Jamie's last engagement as a UGA employee will be as a speaker at the Eastern Apicultural Society meeting this summer in Young Harris. If you get a chance before he heads south, make sure to give Jamie a hard time about going to Gator country. We will truly miss Jamie and his wife Amanda. Their hard work and commitment to the bee program has far exceeded the norm. He will be a strong addition to the University of Florida faculty and an outstanding contributor to bee research and education throughout the region and country.

## Bee Program's Amanda Ellis Featured on UGA Graduate School Magazine

Last year Nancy Evelyn, a UGA photographer, drove by the lab and saw the fields of sunflowers that we planted for bee food. Through some investigative reporting, she found out about our PhD student Amanda Ellis and asked if she could take her photo in the sunflower plots. Amanda agreed and months later found her picture on the cover of the UGA graduate school magazine. It is a great photo and an honor for Amanda (plus great publicity for our program). We planted sunflowers again this year so there may be more photographic opportunities plus food for our bees.



## Young Scholar Program Success at the Bee Lab



**Our newest young scholar Arthur Anglin**

Four years ago our lab joined the UGA Young Scholars Program and have had 4 wonderful students working with us over the summers. The Young Scholars Program is designed to give high school students the opportunity to work as interns with faculty and staff mentors at the University of Georgia through its College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. The program provides students with a broad variety of university departments to choose from in order to fit their interests. Arthur, our newest young scholar, applied last winter and was selected to participate in the program. He is a new high school graduate and plans to attend Georgia Tech this fall and pursue a degree in engineering. Students are randomly placed with us here at the bee lab. We are not able to choose our young scholar; however, we have been fortunate with those assigned to us. Trust me, the first time they learn they will be working at a “honey bee lab” a look of fear sweeps across their face. Yet, over the past 4 years and 4 young scholars, they have all enjoyed learning about honey bees and beekeeping. If you have a youngster at home getting ready for college, have them look into the Young Scholar Program. It is an excellent opportunity for kids to get hands-on experience with research.

## **Small Hive Beetles Move into Canada**

Reported by Medhat Nasr, Ph.D.  
Provincial Apiculturist  
Canada

The SHB was discovered in one of the research colonies at Beaverlodge Research station, Alberta. It was a single live beetle that had survived the winter of 2005 - 06. It is suspected that it came in a package of bees imported from Australia. The SHB has been listed by the CFIA under "immediately notifiable diseases." In general, immediately notifiable diseases are diseases exotic to Canada for which there are no national control or eradication programs.

The Apiculture Program- Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD) has immediately initiated an investigation to find possible sources of the beetle. In our investigation, we are focusing on three sources of bees that might have risks of introducing SHBs into Canada: (1) imported package bees and queens from Australia, (2) imported queens from the continental USA and (3) bees moved annually between British Columbia and Alberta.

In Canada, we import up to 20,000 packages a year from Australia. In Alberta, beekeepers use 10,000 – 15,000 package bees per year (1 kg of bees/package) imported from Australia. Current regulations allow importing bees from Australia and the USA where the SHB has been established. To reduce the risk of introducing any beetles, health conditions have been established for imported bee packages (originated from apiaries 25 km away from any known infested apiaries) and queens (3 hole cages with hand picked attendant). Health certificates issued by the exporting countries that accompanied the shipped bees showed that imported bees and queens met the import conditions. Although the proper procedure was followed, there is a possibility that the packages were originated from SHBs infested hives that were not known to the Australian authority. We are waiting for a report from Australia on this issue. We also visually inspected 324 queens imported from the continental USA for the presence of the SHB. No SHB was found in inspected queen cages. Regarding the movement of bees between British Columbia and Alberta, these colonies are annually inspected by inspectors from Alberta and British Columbia before moving the bees between the two provinces. Inspection reports for the past two years indicate no SHB was reported. Additionally, in Alberta there were two samples suspected to be small hive beetles in 2005. One sample of adult beetle collected from a pollen trap was identified as a pollen beetle by the Provincial Apiculturist. The second sample was identified as a larva of the Greater Wax Moth.

The definitive source of the beetle has not been identified, but strong circumstantial evidence suggests that imported Australian packages could be the main source of the beetle. Further inspection of imported Australian package bees and a report on the status of the SHB in areas where the packages originated in Australia are needed to shed more light on the source of the beetle.

## **Management Calendar: July - September in Georgia**

The recent drought and hot weather has been hard on our colonies. Reports are coming in throughout the state about beekeepers finding colonies either void of bees or with only a handful on the bottom board. During these hot spells, brood may be aborted or colonies may abscond. It is important that your bees have a water source, especially during the summer months. Bees collect water to cool the colony. They do this in several ways. They can deposit water directly inside of cells at the top of the frames or cells with developing larvae. During hot, dry months, it is essential that humidity levels remain constant inside of the hive. If they fall too low, developing larvae will dry out and die. Bees will also use water to cool the interior of the colony by evaporative cooling. Bees fan in different areas of the hive in order to keep air

circulated and temperatures lowered. While fanning, they will extend their proboscises with a droplet of water which produces the cooling effect. Water is not only used to cool the colony, but also used to help dilute honey fed to the brood. If there are no natural water sources located within a mile of your apiary, you may want to place water buckets or pans out for your bees. One more thing, if your neighbor has a swimming pool or pond, your bees may quickly become a nuisance because of repeated visits. I frequently receive calls during the summer from upset people about bees visiting their pools, ponds, etc. If you don't have a water source in your yard, you may want to feed each hive water in a Boardman entrance feeder.

Late June through mid-July is the traditional season for sourwood honey. Now is your last chance to super up – or move your bees north – if you hope to catch this flow. Past years have not yielded the sourwood beekeepers had hoped for, but maybe this year.

Even though the lazy summer months are upon us, we still need to inspect our colonies. If your area experiences a summer dearth, it is very important to periodically check colonies for ample honey supplies. Some beekeepers forget about their colonies during the summer months, especially if there is no upcoming nectar flow. This could lead to trouble. Colonies can starve if either too much honey was removed by the beekeeper or not enough collected during the honey flow. If colonies are short on supplies, feed a 1:1 sugar solution. An average colony in our region needs at least 35-40 lbs to survive the winter. Another problem beekeepers overlook this time of year is swarming. Colonies can still produce primary and secondary swarms during the heat of the summer. Also, the remaining colony may not be able to produce a new queen or a satisfactory one. It is a good idea to periodically check your colony/colonies for a vigorous, healthy queen with a solid brood pattern. Still another problem to be aware of during the dearth periods is robbing. Strong colonies will rob honey supplies from the weaker colonies. Once robbing starts in an apiary, it is almost impossible to stop; therefore, precautionary measures should be taken. Colonies should be equalized throughout an apiary. Weaker colonies are vulnerable to robbing. Entrances should be reduced and all gaps and cracks taped to discourage foreign bees from entering a colony. One more thing, you need to check Varroa mite levels since they are on the increase during the summer months. If you find populations above the economic threshold (60-180 mites on a 24 hour sticky board) you will need to treat. There is a new product on the market called Apiguard which is packaged as a slow release thymol gel. It works two ways: it encourages hygienic behavior and works as a fumigant. Like all other pest treatments, it cannot be used during a nectar flow. The company claims to have an 85% to 95% efficacy rating. We haven't used the product here at the lab, but if the reports are true, it sure beats using the alternative, more dangerous chemicals.

Hopefully you had a good spring nectar flow and made tons of honey and your colonies are happy and thriving. It's not easy being a beekeeper, but it sure has its rewards. Take care.

## **Electronic Delivery of *Georgia Bee Letter***

If you would like to receive *Georgia Bee Letter* via email, send me your address at [jbee@uga.edu](mailto:jbee@uga.edu). Please put a reference to the GBL in the subject line so I know you are requesting the newsletter. Every day I receive numerous advertisements or "spam," and I delete them immediately. If you have sent me your address and not received the *GBL*, please send it again. Since the last time I sent out this newsletter I was hit with a virus which wiped out all my new/old mail. Yes, this has happened before so I have changed my e-mail address which should be more secure. Also, notify me if there are changes to your club meeting times or contact persons, or any interesting information about your club.

## How to Get Georgia Bee Letter

GBL can be received electronically by emailing your request to [jbee@uga.edu](mailto:jbee@uga.edu)


### Regular Meetings

Chattahoochee Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm bimonthly, second Monday	Oxbow Meadows Nature Center, Columbus
Cherokee Beekeepers Club	7:00 pm third Thursday	Cherokee County Justice Building, Canton
Coastal Area Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Monday	Southbridge Tennis Complex, Savannah
Coweta Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Monday	Coweta Fairgrounds Conference Center
East Central Georgia Bee Club	7:00 pm fourth Monday, (bi-monthly)	Burke Co. Office Park Complex
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Association	7:30 pm first Monday	Bishop Community Center, Bishop
Foothills Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm third Tuesday, February - September	Banks Co. Ext Office, 413 Evans St., Homer
Forsyth Beekeepers Club	6:30 pm third Monday	Forsyth County Library, Cumming
Heart of Georgia Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Monday	GA Farm Bureau, 1620 Bass Rd., Macon
Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Tuesday	Dunwoody Nature Center, Dunwoody
Mountain Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm first Tuesday	Mountain Regional Library, Young Harris
Northeast Mountain Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Thursday	Northeast Georgia Regional Library, Clarksville
Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm second Monday, Jan - June & Sept	Walker County Agric. Center, Rock Spring
Southeast Georgia Beekeepers Association	7:00 pm fourth Tuesday, Aug-March	Wacona School Building, Waycross
Southwest Georgia Beekeepers Association	7:30 pm last Tuesday, even months	Swords Apiaries, Moultrie
Tara Beekeepers Assn (Clayton Co. area)	7:30 pm third Monday	Reynolds Nature Preservation

### Beekeeping Subscriptions

<i>American Bee Journal</i> , Hamilton, Illinois 62341	(217) 847-3324
<i>Bee Culture</i> , 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio 44256	(330) 725-6677
<i>The Speedy Bee</i> , P.O. Box 998, Jesup, Georgia 31598-0998	(912) 427-4018

### Resource People for Georgia Beekeeping

Chattahoochee Valley Beekeepers Assoc. Jim Harris, President 34333 Pontiac Drive Columbus, GA 31907 (706) 563-4186	Georgia Dept. of Agriculture Barry Smith, Manager Apiary Program P.O. Box 114 Tifton, GA 31793 (912) 386-3464 <a href="mailto:bsmith@agr.state.ga.us">bsmith@agr.state.ga.us</a>	Tara Beekeepers Association Gary Cooke, President (770) 507-4661 <a href="mailto:Lcooke77@aol.com">Lcooke77@aol.com</a>
Cherokee Bee Club BJ Weeks, President 770-735-3263 <a href="mailto:bnweeks@juno.com">bnweeks@juno.com</a>	Metro Atlanta Beekeepers Martha Kiefer, President (770) 668-0981	Town County Coordinator Robert Brewer Georgia Master Beekeeper Coordinator PO Box 369 Hiawassee, GA 30546 (706) 896-2024 <a href="mailto:RBrewer@uga.edu">RBrewer@uga.edu</a>
Coastal Empire Beekeepers Association Greg Stewart, President 124 St. Ives Way Savannah, GA 31419 (912) 232-6734 <a href="mailto:greg_stewart@mhsml.gulfaero.cm">greg_stewart@mhsml.gulfaero.cm</a>	Mountain Beekeepers Association Larry Sams, President 158 Needlemore Drive Hayesville, NC	University of Georgia Jennifer Berry Apicultural Research Coordinator 1221 Hog Mountain Rd. Watkinsville, GA 30677 (706) 769-1736 <a href="mailto:jbee@uga.edu">jbee@uga.edu</a>
Coweta Beekeepers Association Charles Olsen (770) 304-2737 <a href="mailto:ceolsenga@juno.com">ceolsenga@juno.com</a>	Northeast Mountain Beekeepers Assoc. John Haaseth, President (706) 865-1085	University of Georgia Keith S. Delaplane Professor of Entomology University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602 (706) 542-2816 <a href="mailto:ksd@uga.edu">ksd@uga.edu</a>
East Central Georgia Bee Club Edwin S. Stephens, President 522 Pine Needle Rd. Waynesboro, GA 30830	Northwest Georgia Beekeepers Association Rick Cline, President P. O. Box 5 Rock Spring, GA 30739	
Eastern Piedmont Beekeepers Assoc. Bill Owens, Chairman (770) 266-6619	Southeastern Georgia Beekeepers Assoc. Bobby Colson 945 Sinkhole Rd. Register, GA 30452 (912) 852-5124	
Foothills Beekeepers Association Michael Gailey, President (706) 776-1843	S.W. Georgia Beekeepers Sonny Swords 5 - 28th Avenue N.W. Moultrie, GA 31768 (912) 941-5752	 Jennifer Berry, Research Coordinator
Forsyth County Beekeepers Jan Payne 2926 Pruitt Road Cumming, GA 30041 (770) 781-2959		

County Extension Coordinator